

APR 7 1947

CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

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Supplement to
THE WORLD TODAY

Published twice a month by the Royal Institute of International
Affairs, Chatham House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1

Annual subscription 17s. 6d. Per copy 9d.

Volume III. No. 5

Feb. 24—March 9, 1947

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ARGENTINA. Feb. 24.—A Foreign Ministry spokesman informed the press that the country's entire exportable meat surplus would be shipped to Great Britain, instead of reserving a percentage for other customers as was laid down in the Eady-Miranda treaty of Sept. 17, 1946.

Feb. 27.—The texts of 2 Notes sent by Great Britain on Jan. 3, and the Government's reply of Feb. 15 were published. One of the British Notes offered the Argentine Expedition to the Antarctic British hospitality and help on its arrival in the zone of the British Antarctic possessions. The second rejected Argentina's claims to the Falklands. The Government, in reply, declined the British offer of hospitality, on the ground that the Antarctic region where the expedition went was Argentine territory.

March 1.—Charge against Argentina *re* Nazi Assets. (see Germany.)

March 7.—Trade talks with Russia which had been going on for nearly a year were suspended, and the Soviet trade mission left for home.

AUSTRALIA. Feb. 26.—Dr. Evatt, reviewing foreign affairs in Parliament, said that he expected Australia would be a principal party in the final settlement with Japan. The U.S. proposal regarding Japanese mandates in the Pacific was an illustration of the desirability of dealing with Japan speedily on an overall basis. Australia supported the U.S. claim to these islands, but thought that the proposed trusteeship should be subject to final confirmation by a Pacific peace conference. With a decrease in the dependence of the peoples of south-east Asia on the decisions of European Governments, Australian interests

in their councils would increase. With the relinquishing by the U.K. Government of their special responsibilities in India and Burma, Australian initiative in those areas would have to be substantially increased. The Government felt that complete severance of the links joining the U.K. and India would be greatly prejudicial to both, and it would welcome an opportunity to discuss matters of common concern with the Indian Government.

Of the European situation Dr. Evatt said that the peace treaties with Germany's satellites could not be regarded as adequate to ensure a durable overall peace, but they safeguarded Australia's short-term interests. It was understandable that a feeling of frustration and disillusionment had arisen in the U.K., but she was no more alone than in 1939 and 1940. The other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations were ready to assume increasingly the responsibilities formerly borne by the U.K. alone, and in this connexion Australia had already assumed responsibilities in the Pacific. She was aiming at daily co-operation with the British Commonwealth and its members in a brotherly partnership which could and would actively assist U.N.O. in carrying out its supreme objectives.

March 4.—Mr. Chifley announced a gift of £20,000,000 sterling to Great Britain, to reduce her liabilities for the cost of the Pacific war.

BELGIUM. *Feb. 26.*—Several thousand former prisoners of war demonstrated outside Parliament because their bonus had not been fixed. 30 people were injured, including 12 policemen. A deputation was introduced into the Parliament House to be received by the Prime Minister.

BOLIVIA. *March 1.*—The Government appealed for help from "all America" owing to the very great damage done by floods in Trinidad, which they described as "a national disaster".

BURMA. *March 3.*—Ba Maw and U Saw, former Prime Ministers, and Thakin Ba Sein announced the formation of an "Independence First" alliance, which would boycott the elections and oppose the proposals in the British Government's White Paper.

Measures were taken to deal with increasing lawlessness in the Irrawaddy Delta and parts of Central Burma, where 2 villages near Pyinmana had been destroyed by dacoits and 34 people killed.

March 5.—Following the decision of the Karen National Congress to boycott the Constituent Assembly elections Saw Ba U Gyi, the Minister of Transport, resigned from the Executive Council.

March 8.—Dacoits wrecked a train near Thazi, causing the death of 28 people, including 7 British soldiers. Large forces of British, Indian, and Burmese infantry began operations to round up the dacoits.

CANADA. *Feb. 25.*—Mr. Strachey, speaking in Winnipeg said that it was an "utterly unwarranted suggestion" that the British Government might refuse to pay the floor prices in the last 2 years of the Anglo-

Canadian wheat agreement. It was monstrous to suggest that any British Government would ever break the terms of a solemn agreement such as this. It would not matter how much the world price of wheat fell, it was an inescapable obligation of the British Government to pay at least the minimum floor prices of \$1½ and \$1 respectively for the third and fourth years of the agreement.

March 4.—All political parties unanimously demanded a larger share for Canada in the making of the German and Austrian peace treaties.

CHINA. *Feb. 27.*—The Communists claimed many successes south of Tsinan, resulting in the destruction of 7 Government divisions, and the Government admitted that they were only 10 miles from the city. In Manchuria the Communists were reported to be making progress in an advance on Changchun. Movements of Government troops from the South were reported to be holding up civilian traffic on the Yangtze.

Feb. 28.—The Government ordered the Communist delegation in Nanking to leave within 4 days on the ground that they had been engaged in open rebellion against the Government.

March 1.—Mr. T. U. Soong resigned from the presidency of the Executive Yuan owing to differences with the Yuan and with the Social Democratic and Young China Parties. The Supreme National Defence Council appointed General Chiang Kai-Shek to fill the office temporarily.

March 2.—Chiang Kai-shek told a gathering in Nanking that the removal of all obstructions to national reconstruction would take about 6 months, or a year at the most.

March 4.—The Government announced the defeat of the Communist offensive against Changchun, claiming that 20,000 of the enemy had been wiped out, and 60,000 "trapped", being surrounded near Tehwei, 60 miles north-east of the city. The remnants were retreating to the Sungari river.

March 7.—The last of the Communist liaison officials left Nanking and Shanghai for Yenan.

CYPRUS. *Feb. 27.*—The terms of a memorandum submitted to the Colonial Secretary were published, declaring that nothing short of union with Greece would suffice, as the people were in religion, language, and tradition "staunchly and immutably" Greek. The British constitutional reforms announced in the autumn were therefore rejected. The rights of the Turkish minority would be safeguarded, and arrangements could be made with the Greek Government to safeguard British defence interests in the eastern Mediterranean.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. *March 6.*—M. Spaak, the Belgian Foreign Minister, arrived for an official visit.

March 9.—Negotiations with Hungary to complete the agreement, signed a year ago, for the exchange of minorities broke down and the Hungarian delegation left for home.

DENMARK. *Feb. 28.*—Trade discussions in London. (*see Great Britain.*)

EGYPT. *Feb. 24.*—Fawzi Kaukji arrived in Cairo.

Syrian and Lebanese Governments and the Anglo-Egyptian treaty discussions. (*see Syria and Lebanon.*)

March 2.—The Emir Feisal of Saudi Arabia arrived in Cairo.

March 3.—The Prime Minister, in a statement on the breakdown of the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, said that "the final breaking off of these arduous negotiations may be attributed only to the inability of Egypt to obtain satisfaction on the 2 essential points which are unanimously claimed by the Egyptian people: (1) The evacuation of British troops from Egypt, which must be immediate, complete, and not conditioned by the treaty. (2) The maintenance of the unity of Egypt and the Sudan, self-government for the Sudanese, the restoration to Egypt of her rights in the administration of the Sudan in order to further the preparation of the Sudanese for self-government. The unity of Egypt and the Sudan is the will of both Egyptians and Sudanese alike, whereas British policy is directed to inciting the Sudanese to secede from Egypt."

He pointed out that had not Egypt been deprived of her rights in the administration of the Sudan, the Sudanese would be by now better prepared for self-government, and that since she had so much in common with the Sudan, Egypt was in a better position than Great Britain to promote the welfare of the Sudanese.

Egypt wanted the Sudanese to be able as soon as possible to express their views freely, and this could be accomplished only when British troops had left the Sudan. He ended:

"The two preceding points are a fair application of the principles of the United Nations Charter. For that reason, after exceptionally prolonged negotiations, the Egyptian Government, regretfully convinced that direct discussions held no hope of success, decided to appeal to the Security Council." This decision had received the enthusiastic endorsement of the entire Egyptian people.

A joint announcement issued in Cairo on the conclusion of the Anglo-Egyptian talks on sterling balances stated that a preliminary survey had been made of the ways in which the balances had accumulated, and methods for dealing with the position were considered.

FRANCE. *Feb. 24.*—Admiral d'Argenlieu, the High Commissioner in Indo-China, arrived in Paris.

A Foreign Office spokesman stated that Kaukji was travelling on a visa issued by the Allied Control Council in Berlin, and the British representative on the Council must have known of this.

Feb. 25.—A second decree reducing prices by 5 per cent was promulgated to come into force on March 1. It was not applicable to wheat delivered by set dates; to metallurgical goods, except those for the manufacture of agricultural machinery; to some metals and ferrous alloys; and to certain chemical goods.

It was learnt that a Note had been sent to the U.S.A. proposing to repatriate 370,000 prisoners before Dec. 31, the remaining 70,000 to leave during the first six months of 1948, and the 190,000 prisoners captured by France by the end of 1948. It repeated the request that France should be allowed to recruit voluntary workers from among the prisoners.

U.S. Note *re* the prisoners. (see *U.S.A.*)

Feb. 28.—The Government decided that all wage-earners receiving less than 7,000 francs a month in the Paris area, or less in the provinces according to established agreements, should receive from July 1 a special allowance bringing their wages to that level.

M. Bidault, speaking on foreign policy in the Chamber, said that the Government drew a sharp distinction between the negotiations opening in Moscow and those which had led to the conclusion of treaties with Italy and other allies of Germany. France would work for agreement between the 4 Powers on the German question, for, if that were achieved, agreement on other questions would be easy; but if it were not achieved, "God have mercy on mankind." When the issue was Germany, France was defending her chance of a free and independent existence; she had earned at heavy cost the right to press her views. Referring to the future government of Germany and the status of the Ruhr, he denied the inapplicability of a federal regime, pointing out, that under the Potsdam Agreement, Germany was divided and dismembered. They intended to make the Ruhr "a treasure store for the whole world", from which France could derive the coal she so sorely needed. Hitherto the Government had opposed the payment of reparations out of current production, but he stated that provided the increase of production was confined to manufactured goods, and that coal and other raw materials were included in the term "current production", it would not object. Of the Saar he said that its incorporation in the French economic system involved its political separation from Germany, but there was no intention of trying to make Frenchmen of the Saarlanders. The Assembly gave the Government a unanimous vote of confidence.

March 4.—The Treaty of Alliance with Great Britain was signed at Dunkirk. (For text see page 154.)

Mr. Bevin, speaking at the ceremony, said that the alliance, as "I think Soviet Russia realizes, is not a Western *bloc*, but is an attempt to make one contribution, woven into the rest of the fabric of Europe and the world, into a perfect pattern of a universal peace. In the words of one of those Russian statesmen, Litvinov, it is the beginning of the realization . . . that peace is really indivisible, and must accordingly be established that way".

March 5.—M. Emile Bollaert was appointed High Commissioner in Indo-China, in place of Admiral d'Argenlieu.

March 6.—M. Ramadier outlined to the press the steps to be taken to secure an enduring settlement in Indo-China. The problem was no longer military, but "essentially political", and their policy was based on the principles of the French Union. A free State of Cambodia

would be established. The Cochin-China Government would be made more representative, and similar steps would be taken in Laos. It was also hoped to achieve an understanding with Annam and Tongking

GERMANY. *Feb. 24.*—Further arrests of Nazis were made and it was stated at the Herford H.Q. that 85 per cent of the leaders were in custody.

Von Papen was sentenced by a German denazification court to 8 years in a labour camp and confiscation of his fortune, and was barred for 15 years from practising in a profession, holding public office, or voting.

Board of Trade announcement *re* trading with Great Britain. (see *Great Britain*.)

Feb. 25.—Herford H.Q. announced that the combined operation to round-up Nazi leaders had been concluded.

The Allied Control Council signed a law liquidating the State of Prussia, its central government, and all its agencies.

Feb. 27.—Mr. Hoover's statement on conditions. (see *U.S.A.*)

Gen. Robertson said in Berlin that the overall food situation was more satisfactory than at any time since he had been in Germany. The coal output in the British zone was rising; the average for January was 211,000 tons a day, and on Feb. 25 production reached 231,133 tons. Owing to the status of the miners having been raised and to their receiving extra food and consumer goods, recruits were being obtained on a voluntary basis, and there had been less absenteeism. Replying to allegations in the Russian-controlled press that Britain had taken excessive reparations, he said the British share of the ships of the former German navy and mercantile marine was substantially less than that received by the U.S.S.R. Allocations of capital reparations were well below £1 million. As to the charge that German interests were being made over to monopolists, no German industries or plants had been sold, given, or made over to any British concerns.

Soviet representative's statement published by *Tass*. (see *U.S.S.R.*)

A U.S. spokesman in Berlin, replying to the Soviet charges, said that the reason for the fusion of the 2 zones was to save money. Other occupying Powers could join the agreement, and at the Moscow conference the U.S.A. intended to press that Germany should be treated as an economic unit. Referring to the Soviet suggestion that German economy might be subjugated to British and U.S. monopolies, he said the U.S.A. intended to get no advantage from procuring goods for Germany or from the sale of manufactured articles.

Feb. 28.—Capt. Tillessen, charged with murdering Dr. Erzberger, former Chancellor, was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a court in the French zone.

Replying to Soviet allegations, Sir Sholto Douglas said it was the second time the Russians had disregarded the understanding covering the publication of proceedings of the Control Council. He denied that the Anglo-U.S. Governments were organizing the political fusion of the 2 zones or discussing plans for it. The fusion did not affect the reparations.

tions policy, although the Soviet failure to agree to economic unity had destroyed the basis of the plan for the level of German industry in relation to which reparations must be calculated. No industrial or other property in the British zone had been transferred to any British firm or person. A number of firms in the Soviet zone had been transferred to Soviet Government industrial organizations. As for the complaint of orientation of the commerce of the 2 zones towards the west, he pointed out that it was natural, as western Germany had to import much of its food which formerly came from eastern Germany. Disarmament was virtually completed in the British zone, but the Soviet delegation, until December, 1946, had consistently resisted proposals for quadripartite inspection of their zone. He ended by saying that he failed to understand why the allegations had been published; "they can only be intended to create some prejudice in the public mind".

The U.S. Governor-designate made a similar statement.

March 1.—In a memorandum submitted to the Allied Governments, the International Committee for the Study of European Questions stated that over £100 million of Nazi money was hidden in the Argentine, and there were also large sums in Switzerland. The Argentine Government refused to co-operate in securing control of these assets.

March 8.—Gen. Marshall, speaking to U.S. press correspondents in Berlin, said that the United States regarded the signing of a Four-Power treaty to prevent German aggression as of the utmost importance, since it might ease considerably the settlement of the problems of Germany and Austria.

GREAT BRITAIN. *Feb. 24.*—The Board of Trade announced that from March 4 the Trading with the Enemy Regulations, which banned trade with Germany, would be lifted. Imports under licence of machinery, industrial equipment, chemicals, and certain types of textiles would be permitted. Payment would be in sterling.

Argentine meat export. (*see Argentina.*)

French statement *re* Kaukji's visa. (*see France.*)

Feb. 25.—The Rumanian Ambassador said in London that famine was rife in Rumania, particularly in Moldavia, where 60 to 80 per cent of the children over one year old were dying. In 1946 owing to drought the yield of wheat had been only 1,800,000 tons instead of 3 million, and of maize only 1 million tons instead of 4,500,000. There had been only 2,500 car-loads of beans instead of 12,000, and the fall in the sugar and potato crops had been equally serious.

The Government accepted the Syrian and Lebanese Governments' offer to mediate in the Anglo-Egyptian treaty discussions. (*see Syria and Lebanon.*)

Feb. 26.—White House statement on Mr. Bevin's Palestine statement. (*see U.S.A.*)

A Note was received from Yugoslavia complaining of the activities of Serbian guerrilla bands which were operating from Carinthia into Yugoslavia.

Feb. 27.—It was learnt that a copy of the Egyptian reply to the Syrian

and Lebanese Governments offer of mediation had been received from those Governments.

Publication of exchange of Notes with Argentina. (*see Argentina.*)

Feb. 28.—The Treasury announced that agreement had been reached with Denmark that she should balance her payments with the sterling area for 1947; and she should make additional exports of food. The U.K. would assist her to purchase from non-sterling sources certain essential commodities not otherwise obtainable. An agreement was also reached between the 2 Governments supplementary to that of July, 1946 on the supply of dairy produce by Denmark to the U.K.; and the U.K. agreed to increase prices as from Jan. 1, 1947 as the Danish Government was purchasing oilcake at a higher price than that ruling when the agreement was made. In addition Denmark undertook to sell 30,000 tons of meat to the U.K. during 1947, of which between 5,000 and 6,000 tons was in respect of the carry-over of the 1946 contract.

March 1.—A Polish Note was delivered at the Foreign Office, contending that the Polish Resettlement Bill would enable members of the former Polish forces, now under British command but not in the Resettlement Corps, to be punished according to Polish law, which would be an infringement of Polish sovereignty.

Note on Greece from the U.S. Government. (*see U.S.A.*)

The Emir Feisal of Saudi Arabia left London.

March 3.—Mr. Creech Jones gave an account to Parliament of the terrorist attacks in Palestine, including the blowing up of the Officers' Club in Jerusalem and the decision of the High Commissioner to impose martial law on certain areas. He also said steps were being taken to expedite the appeal to the United Nations.

The Foreign Office announced that the Government's decision to withdraw the remainder of the troops in Greece as soon as practicable remained unchanged.

Trade talks with Poland opened in London.

March 4.—The Air Estimates for 1947-48 were published, providing for a net expenditure of £214 million, made up of £194,500,000 for annual expenses and £19,500,000 for terminal services.

Mr. Bevin left for the Moscow Conference.

The Anglo-French Treaty of Alliance signed at Dunkirk. (*see France.*)

March 5.—The Navy Estimates for 1947-48 were published, providing for a net expenditure of £196,700,000.

Sir Donald St. C. Gainer was appointed Ambassador in Warsaw, and Mr. J. V. T. Perowne, Minister at the Holy See.

March 7.—An official Italian Economic Commission arrived in London.

March 8.—Note to Soviet Government *re* arrest in Hungary. (*see Hungary.*)

GREECE. *Feb. 26.*—The U.N. Commission of Inquiry interrogated 2 former rebels, one of whom said he was the author of a manual of military training found by the Greek troops among rebel archives.

The other said that the paper for the manual had been supplied by the Albanian Ministry of the Press, and the printing done on an Albanian machine.

March 4.—500 people were arrested, charged with helping the rebels through recruiting and supplying arms. Among those detained were many Communists and officials of E.A.M. and E.P.O.N. and of the trade unions.

Statement by General Marschall. Text of the Greek Note published in Washington. (see *U.S.A.*)

HUNGARY. *Feb. 25.*—Bela Kovacs, formerly secretary-general of the Smallholders' Party and accused by the Communists of complicity in the plot against the Government, offered to surrender to the police. He was afterwards arrested by the Russian military authorities, charged with organizing terrorist groups to attack Russian soldiers.

March 6th.—American Note of Protest to Russian Chairman of the Allied Control Commission. (see *United States.*)

March 8.—A British Note supporting the U.S. demand for a joint investigation of the arrest of M. Kovacs was received by the Soviet chairman of the Allied Control Council. It asked for a tripartite inquiry into the circumstances of the arrests.

March 9.—The U.S. Note was published, with the Soviet reply, which rejected the suggestion of a joint committee to investigate the arrests on the ground that any investigation would encroach on the legal right of the Soviet occupying army to safeguard its forces, and would be a flagrant interference in the internal affairs of Hungary.

Breakdown of negotiations with Czechoslovakia on the exchange of minorities. (see *Czechoslovakia.*)

INDIA. *Feb. 24.*—Mr. Casey's views on the British decision. (see *Australia.*)

Further clashes occurred at Amritsar between the police and Muslims demonstrating against the ordinance forbidding processions. British troops were called out and had to fire, owing to attacks on the police, some of whom were seriously injured. Over 100 people were taken to hospital. The Punjab Government stated that the situation was "exceedingly serious". At Lahore many processions were dispersed, and 400 arrests made, and at Jullundur a police inspector and 30 constables were injured by demonstrators. A complete *harta* was observed at Lahore, Amritsar, and Multan.

Feb. 26.—The Punjab Government removed the ban on public meetings, and stated that all those arrested during the Muslim League's civil disobedience campaign would be released except those accused of serious offences. (The number to be freed was about 1,500.)

Feb. 28.—The Finance Member, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, introduced the Budget in the Legislative Assembly. It showed revenue at Rs. 279 crores, and expenditure at Rs. 327 crores. Fresh taxation was expected to yield Rs. 40 crores, but the salt tax was to be abolished, at a cost of

Rs. 9 crores. The final deficit was Rs. 17 crores. New taxes included an income tax of 25 per cent on business profits of over 1 lakh a year, a tax on capital gains, and the doubling of the corporation tax and of the export duty on tea, etc.

The Minister announced the decision to nationalize the Reserve Bank of India, and the taking of steps to control speculation and prevent tax evasion and black market practices.

Mr. Ali Khan revealed that the sterling balances had been reduced during the financial year from £1,300 to £1,204 million.

March 2.—The (Muslim) Premier of the Punjab tendered the resignation of the Government, to leave the field clear for the Muslim League to come to such arrangements with the other parties as were in the best interests of the Muslims and the province, as the continuation of a Government in which the Muslims were not represented might seriously jeopardize any chance of a settlement between the two communities.

March 3.—The Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras stock exchanges closed in protest against the Budget proposals for taxation of business profits. They said the new taxes would strangle industrial enterprise and create unemployment and economic dislocation.

Pandit Nehru, opening in Delhi the session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Industry, said that the Government's policy was to encourage industrialization. The Federation passed a resolution expressing disappointment at the policy outlined in the Budget speech, and protesting against "the staggering burdens proposed to be laid on trade, commerce, and industry".

March 4.—Sikh and Hindu leaders, in meetings at Lahore, declared that they would not support a communal Ministry in the Punjab, which, they said, would result from the Government's resignation. Demonstrations against the Muslim League then began, and the police had to fire, after being attacked and suffering 30 casualties. Rioting continued all day and 13 people were killed and 98 injured.

The Khan of Mambat was understood to be trying to form a Ministry.

March 5.—Demonstrations and counter-demonstrations at Lahore led to 17 people being killed and 89 injured. The police had to fire, and there were several serious cases of incendiarism. All meetings were prohibited. Serious incidents also occurred at Multan, Rawalpindi, Amritsar, and Gujranwala.

The Governor of the Punjab prorogued the Assembly and took over the administration with the help of advisers, under Section 93 of the India Act of 1935.

March 6.—Further rioting and stabbing occurred in Lahore, Amritsar, Jullundur, Multan, Sialkot, and Rawalpindi. Troops were sent to Multan, owing to extensive outbreaks of incendiarism, and parts of Amritsar were also set on fire. Two British battalions were sent to the city.

March 7.—Official figures of casualties were 165 killed and 463 injured in Lahore since March 4, and 90 killed and 115 injured in Multan. In Lahore peace committees were established, but no business

was done and the post offices were closed. Curfews were in force in Amritsar.

A 24-hour curfew was imposed at Amritsar, where the destruction was greater than in any of the other cities. Persons seen in the streets carrying arms were liable to be shot at sight, and leaflets giving that warning were dropped by the R.A.F.

March 8.—The Working Committee of Congress passed a resolution welcoming the British decision to transfer power, and stating that this, in order to be smooth, should be preceded by recognition in practice of the interim Government as a Dominion Government with effective control over the services and administration and the Viceroy functioning as the constitutional head of the Government. The central Government must necessarily function as a Cabinet with full authority and responsibility. Any other arrangement was incompatible with good government, and "is peculiarly dangerous during a transitional period full of political and economic crises". Congress had already expressed its acceptance of the Cabinet Mission's scheme, and had further accepted the interpretation put upon it by the British Cabinet on Dec. 6, and in accordance therewith the Constituent Assembly had been functioning, and had appointed various committees to carry on its work. The work of the Assembly was essentially voluntary, it stated, and it had been made clear that the constitution it framed would apply only to those areas which accepted it. It must be understood that any province or part of a province which accepted the constitution and desired to join the Union could not be prevented from doing so.

The Committee invited the Muslim League to take part in the framing of the constitution, end the boycott of the Assembly, and send representatives to meet Congress leaders to consider the new situation.

The resolution also stated that there could be no settlement of the problem in the Punjab by violence and coercion, and no arrangement based on coercion would endure, so a way out must be found which involved the least amount of coercion. This would necessitate the division of the Punjab into two provinces, and the Working Committee commended that solution.

March 9.—Rioting broke out again at Rawalpindi, and at Murree many houses were set on fire. Demands for British troops were stated to be coming from all the disturbed areas. At Amritsar 40,000 people were reported to be homeless and the material damage was estimated at between 5 and 8 crores of rupees.

INDO-CHINA. *March 6.*—The French Premier's statement of policy. (*see France.*)

March 2.—New operations were begun to the west of Hanoi to clear Viet Nam resistance in this area.

March 5.—M. Emile Bollaert appointed High Commissioner. (*see France.*)

ITALY. *Feb. 25.*—The Government announced that a mixed border commission of Italians and Yugoslavs and representatives of the 4 big

Powers would be sent to Trieste to endeavour to settle frontier disputes. No agreement would be binding without the approval of Parliament.

The Prime Minister, at the conclusion of a long debate, received a vote of confidence by 291 to 107.

Feb. 27.—The commission of inquiry on the Trieste free territory completed its work.

March 7.—Arrival of Economic Mission in London. (*see Great Britain.*)

Recognition of the Republic by the Vatican. (*see Vatican City.*)

JAPAN. *Feb. 24.*—Col. Norma, chief of the gendarmerie during the occupation of Hongkong, was sentenced to be hanged by the war crimes court in Hongkong for atrocities against British and Chinese civilians.

KENYA. *Feb. 27.*—The Government acceded to a request by the British Government to accommodate Jewish terrorists in a camp in Kenya as a temporary measure.

MALAYA. *Feb. 28.*—Disturbances occurred in Kedah, the situation being described officially as "extremely serious", and the Governor of the Malayan Union ordered the evacuation of European women and children of estate managers.

March 2.—The position in Kedah was stated to be "reassuring", after the arrest of many of the ringleaders of the rioters.

March 3.—There were further clashes between police and estate labourers in Kedah, and 21 people were injured; 66 arrests were made.

NEW ZEALAND. *March 5.*—The Prime Minister announced a gift to Great Britain of £10 million sterling.

NORWAY. *March 1.*—Visas for travel by Norwegians and British subjects between the two countries were abolished.

March 3.—Parliament rejected by 101 votes to 11 the Russian request for permission to build military bases on Spitzbergen Peninsula.

PALESTINE. *Feb. 24.*—An official statement was issued in Jerusalem saying: "It is presumed, as a result of inquiry, that Kaukji and his wife were travelling under a disguised name, and unfortunately their identity escaped the vigilance of the frontier control.

Feb. 25.—Mr. Bevin's statement. (*see page 146.*)

Feb. 26.—A Jewish Agency spokesman said that Mr. Bevin had shown a complete lack of understanding of the fundamentals of Zionism, which were the restoration of nationhood to the Jewish people. This had been the basis of the Balfour Declaration.

Feb. 28.—A ship formerly known as the *Ulua* was intercepted off Haifa and, after a struggle in which the passengers drove off a naval boarding party, was run aground by the crew. Naval units attempted to tow her off, without success, and the passengers were then transferred

to 2 vessels for transport to Cyprus. Eleven of the boarding party and 2 immigrants were injured, and 9 of the crew, many of whom were Americans, were arrested.

A large bomb exploded in Barclays Bank in Haifa killing 2 Jews and wounding a British soldier, a sailor, a civilian, and an Arab legionary.

March 1.—Terrorists blew up the Goldsmith British Officers' Club, just outside one of the protected zones of Jerusalem. Two officers, one soldier, and 9 N.A.A.F.I. employees were killed. A police officer and some Jewish civilians were injured by the firing.

Other terrorists attacks occurred in Haifa, Hadera, Rehovoth, and Ras el Ain, causing 10 British deaths.

March 2.—Martial law was imposed on Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, Bnai Brak, Petah Tiqva, and districts of Jerusalem. All shops were closed, postal facilities withdrawn, and wheeled traffic excluded.

The High Commissioner, in a statement, said the regulations had been made under the Palestine Defence Order in Council, 1937.

March 3.—Report to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. (*see Great Britain.*)

Systematic searches were begun in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

March 4.—An army lorry was mined near Rishon le Zion, seriously injuring 3 British soldiers, and an R.A.F. lorry on the way to Aqir was mined, killing 2 Arabs.

March 5.—In Jerusalem hand grenades were thrown into a jeep and a British soldier was injured. A lorry was mined on the Rishon-Rehovot road and the Jewish driver killed. A tax office in Haifa was blown up.

General Sir Miles Dempsey arrived from Cyprus.

March 6.—25 men, all thought to be members of either the Stern gang or the Irgun, were arrested within the martial-law areas. 3 British soldiers were wounded when terrorists attacked an army camp near Hadera.

A large quantity of opium and hashish, valued at £40,000, was seized in a lorry belonging to a forces entertainment company. 2 British soldiers were arrested.

March 7.—Troops carried out extended searches north and south of the Tel Aviv martial-law area, and found a small arms store at Hadera. 32 people were arrested. A British officer and soldier were injured by a mine on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road. Shots were fired at the police station at Rishon-le-Zion.

March 8.—In an engagement lasting over an hour, terrorists attacked the Army H.Q. within the martial-law area of Tel Aviv. A lorry loaded with gas cylinders exploded near Jaffa police station, causing a great deal of damage. The Army camp at Sarona was attacked and a British soldier killed. In Haifa and Jerusalem hand grenades were thrown at British soldiers, 3 of whom were seriously wounded.

March 9.—The *Abrial*, carrying some 600 illegal immigrants, was boarded by a naval party and held. The crew of 17, who claimed to be Americans, were arrested. The Jews carried identity travel cards issued by the "Hebrew Committee of National Liberation" in Paris.

PARAQUAY. *March 8.*—The Ministry of the Interior announced that, following an armed attempt to overthrow President Morinigo's Government, 60 people were arrested.

POLAND. *Feb. 24.*—The Foreign Minister announced the Government's willingness to sign a cultural agreement with Great Britain similar to that concluded with France.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry left Warsaw for Moscow.

Feb. 27.—An official trade delegation left Warsaw for London. Count Grocholski and 2 associates were executed in Warsaw.

March 1.—Note to London *re* Polish Resettlement Bill. (*see Great Britain.*)

March 3.—Ludwig Fischer, former Governor of Warsaw, Joseph Iheissinger, S.S. Chief in Warsaw, and Max Daume, head of the Nazi police during the Warsaw rising, all charged with responsibility for the death of 1,000,000 people, destruction of Polish culture, and the burning of Warsaw, were sentenced to death by the People's Tribunal.

London Trade Talks. (*see Great Britain.*)

March 6.—Polish-Russian financial agreement. (*see U.S.S.R.*)

RUMANIA. *Feb. 25.*—The Ambassador's statement in London about food needs. (*see Great Britain.*)

Gen. Marshall's statement on relief. (*see U.S.A.*)

SOUTH AFRICA. *Feb. 28.*—The European residents of Durban voted on the question of whether the municipal franchise should be extended to Indians, defeating it by a very large majority. The Minister of Finance submitted the Budget for 1946-47, and announced tax reductions totalling £15,835,000. They included the abolition of the excess profits tax and special levy on trade profits, and reductions in postal rates, in the petrol tariff, and in gold mining taxation.

Total expenditure was estimated at £120 million and revenue at about £110,000 less.

March 3.—Settlement of Lend-lease account. (*see U.S.A.*)

SYRIA AND LEBANON. *Feb. 24.*—It was learnt that the 2 Governments had offered to mediate in the Anglo-Egyptian treaty discussions.

March 1.—Turkish Premier's statement on relations with Syria. (*see Turkey.*)

March 4.—Riots occurred at Tripolis during a reception to Kaukji, and 14 people were killed and 50 wounded.

TURKEY. *March 1.*—The Prime Minister stated in Ankara that there were no questions pending between Turkey and Syria, but that as the 2 countries had a long common frontier they could conclude agreements to meet the requirements of their neighbourly situation.

U.S.A. *Feb. 24.*—The Treasury stated that Great Britain had withdrawn \$100 million of the loan, making \$900 million drawn to date.

President Truman asked Congress to authorize U.S. participation in the I.R.O., saying it would be serious if it was not in a position to begin operations on July 1. Almost two-thirds of the displaced persons in Germany, Austria, and Italy—estimated at over a million—were under U.S. care, he added.

The President received leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, and told them that he was still trying to get 100,000 refugees into Palestine.

The State Department announced the receipt of a second Soviet Note protesting against Mr. Acheson's statement.

Feb. 25.—Gen. Marshall told the press that U.S. relations with India had assumed new significance with the arrival of India's Ambassador-designate, and Mr. Attlee's declaration. The U.S.A. appreciated the grave character of the British decision to set a definite date for the transference of power, and it profoundly hoped that Indian political leadership would accept this clear-cut challenge and proceed to break the *impasse* between Congress and the Muslim League.

Gen. Marshall also stated that the Soviet Government had replied to the U.S. inquiry about the Japanese mandated islands, stating that it felt that it was entirely fair to transfer trusteeship over them to the U.S.A.

It was learnt that the Government had requested the French Government to repatriate by Oct. 1 the 440,000 German prisoners "lent" by the U.S. Government to France at the close of hostilities.

French Note *re* German prisoners. (see *France*.)

The Under-Secretary of State told Congress that unless it voted \$350 million of the estimated \$610 million needed for foreign relief during 1947 the political and economic consequences "will not be pleasant to contemplate". He said Great Britain had announced that she would make \$40 million available to Austria, and other nations were considering the problem.

Feb. 26.—The Senate approved by 51 votes to 33 a reduction of \$4,500 million in the Budget submitted to Congress by President Truman.

A statement was issued from the White House saying: "The impression that has arisen from yesterday's debate in the British Parliament that America's interest in Palestine . . . is motivated by partisan and local politics is most unfortunate and misleading." President Truman's statement in October merely reaffirmed the U.S. Government's attitude which had been communicated to the British Government by the President in his letter to Mr. Attlee of Aug. 31, 1945, publicly released on Nov. 13, 1945, when the President announced the establishment of the Anglo-American committee of inquiry. "The statement of Oct. 4, 1946 reiterated this position, which was already fully known to all parties to the Palestine negotiations."

Mr. Lewis Williams Douglas was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain.

Feb. 27.—Mr. Hoover, in a report to the President on conditions in

Germany, urged that 2,505,000 tons of cereals, and 720,000 tons of other food, together with fertilizer, seeds, and petroleum products, should be shipped by the end of June. The estimated cost would be \$384 million, of which the U.S.A. and Britain should pay equal shares. He also recommended that \$567 million should be spent in equal shares between the 2 countries during 1947-48 for food for Germany, this to be recovered from German exports "before any payments to other nations, of any kind". More than 41 million people living in the Anglo-U.S. area were receiving daily 24 per cent less food than the recommended minimum, but more than 7 million farmers were in "good condition", also about 4 million expectant or nursing mothers. He suggested that 75 laid-up Liberty ships should be given to the Germans, and that they should be allowed to fish off their own coasts and import fish from Scandinavia. Appropriations necessary to relieve conditions should have priority over appropriations for military purposes.

Mr. Strachey arrived in New York.

The Export-Import Bank announced a loan of \$4,905,000 to the Turkish State Railways for the purchase of locomotives in the U.S.A.

Feb. 28.—Mr. John L. McCloy was appointed president of the World Bank.

President Truman informed the press that the Government's aim to export 400 million bushels of relief grain by June 30 would be attained by April 30. He called for maximum deliveries after June 30 "in the interest of world stability and freedom".

March 1.—Mr. Dean Acheson handed to the British Ambassador a Note understood to be an acceptance in principle of the British request that the U.S.A. should take a share in the rendering of financial and other assistance to Greece.

March 3.—Mr. Chester Lane, administrator of Lend-lease, announced that South Africa has agreed to settle its Lend-lease account of \$169 million for \$100 million in cash.

The State Department received an appeal from Greece for assistance.

March 4.—General Marshall, in a statement on Greece, said that her economic condition had deteriorated to the verge of collapse. The problems were far-reaching and of the greatest importance. Ways were being studied for providing assistance, and the economic mission there was making a start. Consultations were in progress with the Greek and British Governments.

The text of the Greek Note was published. It stated that for Greece to survive she must have immediate financial help to enable her to buy abroad food, clothing, fuel, and seeds. Secondly, she needed equipment for her armed forces to restore order in the country, and thirdly, financial and other assistance to enable the people to create the means for self-support in the future.

The Secretary of Agriculture had talks with Mr. Strachey.

Mr. Byrnes, at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urged the ratification of the peace treaties with Italy, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Hungary. He stated that by making Trieste an international

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city the Great Powers had thwarted a plan by Yugoslavia to seize Trieste by force. He considered the treaties "represented an important, if limited, step in the restoration of peace".

March 5.—General Marshall left for the Moscow Conference.

After talks with Mr. Strachey, the Secretary of Agriculture announced that the United States would begin shipment in April of "substantial quantities" of fresh beef to Britain. They would also help Britain to build up stocks of wheat before the winter, and it was hoped larger amounts of maize would be shipped.

The Government received the British reply to their Note on Greece.

March 6.—A Note of Protest was sent to the Russian chairman of the Allied Control Commission for Hungary, accusing Russia of unjustified interference in the internal affairs of Hungary by attempting to substitute a Communist dictatorship for the freely-elected Government.

In a speech at Waco, Texas, President Truman said that the United States was "the giant of the economic world", and the future pattern of economic relations depended on them. The world trade charter should be completed by the International Trade Organization in Geneva in April and these negotiations must not fail. Countries in difficulties must be given readier access to the markets of the world. The aim must be reduction of tariffs and discriminations and the achievement of freer trade.

March 8.—Gen. Marshall's statement in Berlin on 4-Power Treaty. (see *Germany*.)

U.S.S.R. Feb. 25.—The Government's statement on Japanese mandated islands. (see *U.S.A.*)

M. Vyshinsky announced in the Supreme Soviet that changes had been made in the Constitution of the Union, which included the institution of the 8-hour day, introduced in 1940, in place of the 7-hour day; also the arrogation to the Union of the exclusive right to pass laws affecting marriage and the family throughout the Union.

M. Zhdanov resigned from the presidency of the Soviet of the Union (one of the two Houses of the Supreme Soviet) and was succeeded by M. Parfenov.

Feb. 26.—M. Miterev, Minister of Public Health, was "released from his post for inability to fulfil his duties", and Gen. Smirnov was appointed in his place.

Feb. 27.—*Tass* published a statement made by the Soviet representative at a meeting of the Allied Control Council in Berlin, in spite of the agreement between the Allies that subjects under discussion were not to be reported. It said that the fusion of the British and U.S. zones in Germany was hampering her economic recovery and "might have very serious consequences for Germany's political future". The fusion of the zones did not aim at fulfilling the Potsdam conference decisions on the liquidation of the war industrial potential, reparations deliveries, or the elimination of the economic foundations of Fascism in Western Germany. It was not regarded as permissible that a situation existed

where there was a 2-party council whose economic programme ran counter to the decisions of Potsdam and was hampering the rehabilitation of the country. The question arose as to whether the fusion was aimed at using the occupation of Germany for the absorption of German economy, its subjugation to British and U.S. monopolies, and thus the reduction of Western Germany to the condition of an appendix to foreign monopolies.

Reply of U.S. spokesman to allegations published by *Tass*. (see *Germany*.)

Feb. 28.—British and U.S. replies to criticisms of the Anglo-U.S. zone. (see *Germany*.)

March 1.—An Economic Survey was published in 2 parts, the first part on food production, by the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and the second on the industrial crisis, by the Soviet Government. The Central Committee said the collective farms were not prepared for the spring sowing and there was dangerous disorganization on some farms where peasants had appropriated plots for themselves. The situation was made worse by a serious shortage of tractors and the effect of the 1946 drought.

The Soviet Government reported that last year's plan for industry had not been carried out and that the root of the crisis was the low output of coal and shortage of man-power. Mines in the Donetz basin were not yet working and other mines in the east were out of production. The acute coal shortage, only partially eased by imports from Poland, was holding up the production of vital farm equipment, rolling stock, and houses.

March 3.—Marshal Stalin resigned the post of Minister of the Armed Forces, and was succeeded by General Bulganin.

March 5.—General Bulganin was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Marshal Vassilevsky Deputy Minister of the Armed Forces.

March 6.—An agreement with Poland was signed in Moscow, under which Russia would lend \$27,875,000 in gold to enable Poland to buy abroad urgently needed food and raw materials. Provision was made for further economic ties, and the military interdependence of the 2 States was increased.

March 8.—Receipt of British Note of protest regarding Hungary. (see *Hungary*.)

Mr. Bevin arrived in Moscow.

March 9.—The *New Times*, writing on the Conference, accused influential circles in Britain and the U.S.A. of wishing "to undermine the grounds of any honest international cooperation on a basis of equality of the participants. These circles are the inspirers of atomic diplomacy. They push their Governments into the dangerous and fruitless path of imposing their will on other peoples and countries." The reactionary foreign press was still insisting on unilateral action in solving the German problem, as was shown by the unilateral fusion of the British and U.S. zones, clearly violating the Potsdam Agreement. "Reactionary circles in the Anglo-Saxon Powers," it said, "are openly

preaching schemes for a rebirth of German imperialism with the purpose of using it against the Soviet Union and other democratic countries in Eastern Europe. In such projects as the "Western *bloc*" or "United States of Europe" a specific utilitarian role is assigned to a "strong Germany."

M. Bidault and Gen. Marshall arrived in Moscow.

VATICAN CITY. *March 7.*—The Vatican gave its official blessing to the new Italian Republic.

YUGOSLAVIA. *Feb. 25.*—Mixed border commission for Trieste (see *Italy*.)

Feb. 26.—Yugoslav Note *re* guerrilla activity. (see *Great Britain*.)

Feb. 27.—The Commission of Inquiry's report on Trieste. (see *Italy*.)

March 8.—The Presidium of the National Assembly published a decree under which King Peter and his close relatives were deprived of their nationality and their property was confiscated.

March 9.—Gen. Turner, former Nazi military governor in Serbia, and 10 members of his staff, charged with responsibility for mass executions and looting during the occupation, were sentenced to death by a military tribunal.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Feb. 24.—M. Gromyko argued against the British case regarding the Corfu Channel, remarking that foreign ships, which might have been responsible for the mines, often appeared in Albanian waters and, that apart, ships had often been mined in other places considered to have been cleared. The fairway where the destroyers were damaged did not coincide with the fairway of 1944-45. He maintained that the root of the trouble was that Albania had been deprived, at the instance of Britain and Greece, of a part in the clearance of her own coastal waters, contrary to international agreement. The result was that foreign warships were "bossing" in Albanian waters under the pretext of mine-sweeping. By a decision of the Mediterranean Zone Board Greece had been entrusted with the responsibility, legally Albania's, for sweeping her waters.

He complained that the mine-sweeping by British ships after the destroyers were damaged was a unilateral act, ignoring Albania's right to be consulted and that it did not have behind it "the unanimous decision of the Mine Clearance Board". (Actually, the Board's decision was unanimous.) In short, in comparison with the procedure when sweeping mines in other territorial waters, the British Navy had consistently ignored Albanian sovereignty, and he found that the British complaint was unjust, that Albania's conduct did not constitute a threat to peace, and that the case should be dismissed by the Council.

The U.S. delegate declared that it was difficult to believe that the Albanians did not know of the presence of the mines. He supported a proposal by the Australian delegate that as a first step a committee be appointed to examine the evidence, to call for further information from both parties, and to draw up a report on the facts.

Sir Alexander Cadogan said he would not oppose this, and then dealt with some of the "great and important inaccuracies" in the Soviet, Polish, and Albanian statements. M. Gromyko's allegation that the channel in which the destroyers were damaged was not a swept channel was, he said, "untrue and can be proved to be so".

Feb. 25.—The U.S. delegate to the Atomic Energy Commission introduced a motion providing that the Commission should be informed of the portions of its report on which there was unanimity on the Security Council and those on which there was still disagreement, and that it should then develop proposals and submit a draft convention.

M. Gromyko asked for time to consider this.

Feb. 26.—The U.S. delegate, in a statement asking for the approval of draft agreements placing under U.S. trusteeship Pacific islands formerly under Japanese mandate, said the final disposition of the islands must await the peace settlement, but the U.S.A. was in possession and was exercising all authority, and no other Government had claimed the trusteeship. The islands had played a very important strategic rôle in Japan's plans of aggression, and in now placing them under trusteeship the U.S.A. was expressing its faith in the United Nations. He explained that the Pacific island territory, consisting of 98 islands, with a population of 48,000, was designated a strategic area. The supervisory functions of U.N.O. would therefore fall not upon the Assembly but on the Security Council, and the agreements proposed contained divergencies from those approved for non-strategic territories at the last Assembly session, i.e., the U.S.A. retained freedom to determine how far U.N.O. supervision might be exercised in places that might from time to time be closed for military reasons; also the right to fortify the islands, establish bases, etc.

Feb. 27.—The Council, after a long discussion, appointed a committee (delegates of Australia, Colombia, and Poland) to investigate the British case against Albania. Several delegates drew attention to a disagreement both in fact and in law between the two parties' cases, but Sir Alexander Cadogan pointed out that the existence of a minefield recently laid without notice very near the coast was an incontestable fact, which no one had denied, and that its existence was a flagrant violation of international law, which it did not cease to be if, as M. Gromyko asserted, British procedure in clearing it later was not entirely correct.

Feb. 28.—The debate on the report of the Atomic Energy Commission was postponed till March 5 at M. Gromyko's request.

March 5.—M. Gromyko, speaking on the report of the Atomic Energy Commission, declared that the U.S.S.R. could accept no system of control that involved any international interference with the industrial life of the country, and said he thought the Governments

which supported the Commission's findings must have lost their sense of reality. He objected not to an international control organ as such, but to one that would have the functions of ownership, management, licensing, and supervision of mining operations and fission plants; ownership and disposal of the product; or unlimited access to atomic plants for inspection. He argued that such a scheme would violate national sovereignty, and would place the development of Russia's industrial life in the hands of an authority in which the majority would not be benevolently minded towards her people. The Atomic Energy Commission, he declared, was not an international trust designed to perpetuate the U.S. monopoly of atomic energy. He also made it clear that, whatever the machinery of supervision, sanctions against a violator of the atomic energy convention must be subject to the rule of five-Power unanimity.

March 7.—The British delegate said that Britain doubted the strict legality of putting the Japanese mandated islands under U.S. trusteeship before the peace treaty with Japan, but would not oppose it if the majority supported it. The Australian delegate supported it, saying his Government wanted the final decision to be confirmed by the Pacific Peace Conference. A Security Council committee should examine the trusteeship agreement in detail.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Feb. 24.—M. Gusev argued that the draft report on procedure disagreed with decisions previously reached by the deputies. The Secretary-General was then referred to, and stated that it did not differ in any way from what had been agreed. M. Gusev, however, continued, at intervals, to maintain that he could not discuss the report as it had not been agreed, and the chairman (Mr. Murphy) asked how, then, they were to proceed. M. Gusev eventually proposed that Part I of it (laying down in general terms that the Foreign Ministers should consult with the allied Governments) should be sent forward to the Ministers with the bracketed clauses it contained, and that Part II (dealing with the committees to be established and their membership) should not be submitted at all, but the individual proposals of each delegation should go forward with the comment that no agreement could be reached.

Finally, a French compromise was accepted; that the drafting committee should produce another paper embracing the Soviet suggestion, but with the addition that each delegation should be at liberty to submit to the Ministers its own comments on each proposal.

The British deputy entered a reservation, saying he had only agreed to Part I on the understanding that there would be a Part II amplifying and expanding it. He doubted whether, in these circumstances, Part I could be considered an agreed document.

Feb. 25.—The deputies completed and signed a long report on the German treaty, giving the views of all the allied Governments who had presented memoranda. On the procedural question (the manner in

which the smaller Powers should be associated with the treaty-making) no agreement was reached. They also signed the report on Austria.

The deputies passed on to the Foreign Ministers a Note from the Australian Government stating that it considered that the proposals which had been before the deputies for the closer consultation of the smaller allies were inadequate, and pointing out, also, that there was no assurance that there would eventually be a peace conference, even on the model of the Paris conference.

MR. BEVIN'S STATEMENT ON PALESTINE

ON Feb. 25 Mr. Bevin, opening a debate in Parliament on Palestine, said that there was no denying that the Mandate contained contradictory promises: it promised the Jews a national home, and it declared that the rights and position of the Arabs must be protected. Therefore it provided for what was virtually an invasion of the country by thousands of immigrants, at the same time saying that this was not to disturb the people in possession. The question therefore arose whether this could be accomplished without conflict.

Events in the last 25 years had proved that it could not. Outlining the present situation he made the following points: The issue now was not the question of a national home for the Jews — all that was over. What the United Nations must decide was: (1) should the claim of the Jews be admitted that Palestine was to be a Jewish State; or (2), should the claim of the Arabs be admitted that it was to be an Arab State with safeguards for the Jews under the decision for a national home; or (3), should there be a Palestinian State in which the interests of both communities were as closely protected as possible? In all the negotiations he had been in he had had to come back to those three provisions every time, and the Mandatory Power could not solve the problem until U.N.O. had recommended which of these alternatives was to form the basis of the future organization of Palestine.

There had been various schemes evolved in the past, but all of them which had ever come before him would have to be put into operation by force. The Government had decided that force would not produce a final solution and might create wider difficulties in the Middle East, and might, indeed, start them on the road leading in 25 years to another war. They proceeded with the conviction that it was their duty to try to get a negotiated settlement, and agreed that they could not enforce the White Paper of 1939 as a basis for their policy. It had been suggested that all that was needed was to tear the White Paper up, but the House of Commons had voted for it — though it was true the Mandates Commission did not endorse it — and changes of Government did not justify such action. A party coming into office after declaring that it would not be bound by a decision of the previous Government did not just tear up existing undertakings, but sought to change them by proper negotiation and by substituting another policy. The House in 1939 by a vote adopted the White Paper, and the Arabs took that as a decision of the British Parliament. He had therefore told

the Arabs quite straight that his party declared that they could not be bound by the White Paper programme and a change must be negotiated. He said that the immigration should not come to an end at Dec. 31, 1945, but should continue at 1,500 a month.

It would be wrong to say that the Arabs agreed to that, but at least there was acquiescence, and the certificates were issued. Since December, 1945 21,000 Jews had entered over and above the 75,000 for whom the White Paper provided, and they were now entering at the rate of 18,000 a year. This rate had been exceeded only 5 times in the whole history of the Mandate, in 1925 and in the first 4 years of Hitler's rule.

It might have been possible to do more for Jewish immigration if bitterness of feeling had not been increased by American pressure for the immediate admission of 100,000. He would have been happy if the Americans had had regard to the fact that Britain was the Mandatory Power and was carrying the responsibility. Instead of asking the British Government what they were doing, a person named Earl Harrison went to the U.S. zone in Germany collecting certain information, and "a report was issued which really destroyed the basis of good feeling which the Colonial Secretary and I were endeavouring to produce in the Arab States and it set the whole thing back. However, we realized that we had to take American interest in this problem into account, and we invited them to join us in forming the Anglo-U.S. committee of inquiry."

He had been criticized in America for not accepting its report, but none of it was accepted by the U.S.A. except the one point about the admission of 100,000 Jews. He had always been prepared to stand up to the problem of the report as a whole, which included 10 points, but actually that would not have settled the problem, and they had to continue trying to work out policy. First, they produced the plan for provisional autonomy, and then they tried to convene a conference of both Arabs and Jews. He saw Jewish representatives in Paris and London, but profoundly regretted that they would not come in and face the issue. He knew that those who had been trained in England and in English customs and practice wanted to come in, but the Jewish Agency, very largely dominated from New York, would not, and it was with gentlemen from there that he had to deal so much. They would not join the conference unless Britain would commit herself in advance to a Jewish State, either partitioned or as a whole. That she could not do, but it was agreed to put the plan of the Jewish Agency on the agenda and examine it on its merits.

He knew he could not get both sides into the same room and here it was the Arabs who were the greatest difficulty, saying their experiences in the past were not helpful, but the Jews were willing if he would accept the Jewish State, in some form, in advance. He could not do that, and so could not get them even into one room, but did succeed in seeing the Jews separately. He advanced the idea of an interim arrangement leading ultimately to self-government, and said to them, "If you will work together for 3, 5, or 10 years it might well be that you will not want to separate. Let us try to make up the difference." Things then

looked more hopeful, and there was a feeling when they left him that he had the right approach at last.

He went back to the Paris Conference, and next day — a Jewish religious festival — was told by the Prime Minister, by telephone at midnight, that President Truman was going to issue another statement on the 100,000. "I went next morning," he continued, "to the Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, and told him how far I had got the day before. I believed we were on the road, if only they would leave us alone. I begged that the statement be not issued, but I was told that if it was not issued by Mr. Truman a competitive statement would be issued by Mr. Dewey. In international affairs I cannot settle things if my problem is made the subject of local elections."

A vexed problem like this, with 1,000 years of religious differences, had to be handled with the greatest detail and care. They could lead to civil war before you knew where you were. However, the statement was issued. He was dealing with Jewish representatives at the time, and "I had to call it off because the whole thing was spoilt." He had to open the conference with the Arabs alone, and they put the point to him that they wanted finality. They wanted to determine what the future of Palestine was to be. The Jews also wanted finality, provided it took the form of a Jewish State. But they would be prepared to see British rule continued as a protecting Power provided it was clearly aiming at a Jewish sovereign State. He went on:

"The conference was suspended at that time. The United Nations were meeting in New York. I thought that by going to New York I could talk to a lot of people and try to help the thing along by meeting people and so on. While there I discussed the matter with the Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, and at the end he made a public statement saying that the basis upon which Great Britain was proposing to hold the conference in his view merited the attendance of the Jews as well as the Arabs. Even that, from America, produced no results.

"Then came the second session of the conference with the Arabs. In view of the difficulty, we agreed to have informal talks with the Jewish Agency. We did not press them to come into conference. I have been too long a negotiator to stand on form, and thought it was better if they could not see their way clear to come into the conference that I should meet them informally to see whether with my colleagues I could get over the difficulty.

"When the conference met the Arabs adhered to their plan for a unitary independent State in Palestine. They have reiterated at every meeting that they have never accepted the Palestine Mandate nor recognized the legality of the Balfour Declaration. Nevertheless they told us they were willing to recognize the results of this policy so far as the present residents of Palestine were concerned. That was about 600,000 Jews, now nearer 700,000, with 1,200,000 Arabs.

"If it were only a question of relieving Europe of 100,000 Jews I believe a settlement could be found, and that a settlement could now be found if it is purely the humanitarian problem I have to solve. Unfortunately, that is not the position. From the Zionist point of view

the 100,000 is only a beginning, and the Jewish Agency talk in terms of millions. I think the Arabs could be persuaded to agree to 100,000 new immigrants, in an orderly way, on humanitarian grounds having regard to the European situation if immigration after that were to be determined by the elected representatives of the people of Palestine.

"The claim made by the Arabs is a very difficult one to answer. . . . Why should an external agency largely financed from America determine how many people should come into Palestine and interfere with the economy of the Arabs who have been there for 2,000 years? The Arabs say they are not going to be pushed out by an external agency from a country which they regard as their own and in which they have been living for just about as long as England has been a Christian country." It was a difficult thing to answer. Under the Arab plan — and they now accepted the national home, although they did not accept the Balfour Declaration or the Mandate — they accepted the national home within a unitary State. "That gives an Arab majority," Mr. Bevin continued. "What is it we have got to solve? Are the Jews a State or are they a religion? I have got to face the question of Catholics, Mohammedans, and everybody else . . . I cannot believe that if there is a unitary State in Palestine every Arab will vote for an Arab candidate — he may in the first instance — or that every Jew will vote for a Jewish candidate . . . There is no doubt that people will form views which will crystallize. Therefore, the Arabs argue, 'Leave it to the intelligence of the people who live in the State'."

He did not know whether anyone could explain exactly what the framers of the Balfour Declaration meant when they used the expression "national home". When he himself used it to them the Arabs understood that in Palestine those Jews who had migrated there should have their liberty and freedom — no pogroms, no persecution — and be equal citizens of the State. "That makes it a national home. My national home is in England with the same conditions," he added, and went on to point out that it was human rights which were the basis of the United Nations, and in the proposals, which he thought were perhaps too limited — he did not accept them — they were fundamental principles which he thought gave effect to what he understood to be the basis of the claim originally made by Nathan Rothschild and others in the original discussions. The Jews said that if that was done they would be tolerated as a minority, so another plan was tried, which had certain features common to the Anglo-American Report and the Provincial Autonomy Plan. For the Arabs these proposals had the advantage that they placed in Arab hands the maintenance of existing safeguards against the dispossession of Arab cultivators, and at the end of 2 years they would have given the Arabs a voice in determining the rate of immigration. It was proposed to set up a Governor's Council, and in 2 years 96,000 people would have been allowed from Europe, without any question of economic absorptive capacity. Afterwards the High Commissioner was to consult a council of both Jews and Arabs, and then decide on the basis of absorptive capacity, incorporating the words (of Mr. Churchill) included in the 1922 White Paper.

If the High Commissioner's decision was not accepted by either party the Secretary General of U.N.O. would appoint an arbitration tribunal, and Britain, as Mandatory Power, would abide by the result. The Jews answer to this reasonable proposal was to reject it because it was proposed that the Arabs should be consulted at all. H.M.G. really could not possibly accept a position in which one was going to admit people into a country and representatives of the people living in it must not be consulted. He still believed, however, that there was a chance of a settlement yet, if people would come off their arbitrary positions.

The other difficulty was that the Palestine Government had no roots in the people at all; it was an alien Government imposed on the top by a mandatory Government. The holding of the Mandate by Britain was meant to lead to something, and that the regulation of Britain's relationship with Palestine should, in the end, be on a treaty, and not a mandatory, basis. Now that the Trusteeship Council had been set up the only thing to do was to establish a trusteeship leading to independence, unless they got agreement between the parties; but there was no chance of this: "Therefore," he said, "we proposed a trusteeship for 5 years — for 2 years with 96,000 immigrants, and arbitration after that on the question of the economic absorptive capacity — and that we should begin at once by creating, municipal areas in certain parts of Palestine which would have Jewish majorities, and others which would have Arab majorities. In order to achieve that we designed our plans to give the Jews the benefit of Tel Aviv", where, with other urban areas, 78 per cent of the Jews lived.

It was suggested that the police system be devised which would be partly central and partly municipal in the respective areas, so as to begin building up a government with roots in the people, ready to hand over. After 4 years they suggested a constituent assembly, to try to work out a Constitution. If they could not do so Britain would return to U.N.O. and ask for their help and advice. "We felt," he said, "that if we could begin self-government, begin getting people to work together, it would help to solve the problem. I am convinced that if the Jews and Arabs in Palestine — I emphasize in Palestine — are given a chance to work together they will work together and solve this problem, but if it is to be settled in accordance with the Jewish Agency's dictates, it will never be settled."

After pointing out that in many trade boards, enterprises, etc., they did already work together, he said he was convinced that, given the chance and removed from political difficulty, the Jews and Arabs would develop a State of which they could well be proud. The Mandates held in other Middle East countries had led to self-government, and the cultural development of the Arabs and Jews in Palestine was of as high a standard as that development and the aptitude for government of any other Arab State.

As for the Balfour Declaration, when it and the Mandate were made no one indicated when the national home would be established. Was it millions of Jews; was it a majority; was it a Jewish State; or what was it? He knew why the Declaration was made, but he did not believe it would

help the discussion now. Prior to 1939 it was thought that the steps that had been taken did really fulfil the Declaration. But the more one read the documents the more difficult it was to find any guide as to when the national home had been completed or established. It was for that reason that "we thought that if we developed these municipal areas, if we transferred the land regulations, the laws, and the police, and all this kind of thing to majorities in that area we should have established in fact the national home. We should have established the national home within a unitary State with a free chance to the Jews for their own development, which would have allowed them in the joint Parliament of Arabs and Jews to have had their say in the affairs of the world".

It was said that if they had a unitary State the Jews, as Jews, would not be in the United Nations. But, he asked: "Are we in the United Nations as a religion, are we in the U.N. as a people geographically situated, or how are we in it? If the U.N. is to arrive at a position in which it will have 5 or 6 great religions as dominant factors, then that will be a very disturbing situation". The Jewish Agency said that "as nationals, but not as Jews, we shall be in the United Nations." He never thought, he said, that they had promised or done anything to establish a situation of that character, but, if it was so, they must do it with their eyes open. Within every State of the United Nations there were any number of religions, and they could not divide themselves according to religions — they were united in U.N.O. as States. He had asked, over and over again, if it would not be possible to have a Palestinian State, and, with the ability that was there, could not they find a place through a Palestinian State to deal with these problems in U.N.O. from a State point of view?

As to partition, it would have involved "a tremendous row as to where the frontier should be". It was impossible to make two viable States, however they might try. You could not make one of them dependent on somebody else.

He had been asked, why go to the United Nations? Any remedy that took the form of creating a Jewish State would lead to the Arabs taking them to U.N.O., and if they partitioned the country, and the question then went to U.N.O. Syria or some other country would take them to U.N.O., where they would have their conduct discussed on the basis of their legal action in carving up a State that was not theirs, and "Britain would be placed in a very funny position". They therefore tried to get the best they could within the Mandate, and in the end decided that the Mandate was really unworkable. They might have established a case that they had carried out what it originally intended if the problem had not been accentuated by the Hitler régime. But for that the original basis of the Mandate had been carried out. The British Government had done their best all the way through, and what they had not been to do was to meet the position created by Germany. It had not been the original Mandate which had been the cause of failure, but it had been the failure of the moral consciousness of international organizations to grapple with the problem as a whole which had left it as it now was. There were a million displaced persons

on the Continent, but none of the countries elsewhere would do anything to take them on any considerable scale.

Finally, he was studying the question of getting the problem considered earlier than September, under the Charter. Even now, rather than that it should go to U.N.O. he would prefer that Britain, with all her traditions, should be allowed to deal with it on a humanitarian basis. He wanted to remove the political conflict and get back to relieving Europe of these 100,000 people, as they were asked to do, and be allowed to deal with any further immigrants on the basis he had suggested. If there was a dispute, let there be arbitration, and "in the quickest possible time, we can create an independent State . . . where Jew and Arab . . . can work together and end these centuries-old conflicts".

MR. BEVIN'S REVIEW OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON FEB. 27

SPEAKING in the House of Commons on Feb. 27 on the world situation, Mr. Bevin said the Treaties with Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Finland, and Italy, represented the end of the technical state of war. The Governments of all these countries had now been recognized, and as soon as the treaties were ratified, Britain could withdraw her troops. The aim of these treaties was to create conditions for the resumption of normal life. The questions of reparations was a difficult one, they had to bear in mind the sufferings of the invaded countries when considering their demands for reparations from Italy. The geographical difficulties, which arose from the attempt to establish just frontiers, were considerable, especially in the case of Trieste, but he felt confident that Italy and Yugoslavia would co-operate and make Trieste a place of great economic importance for all user countries. There was absolutely no truth in the idea that Trieste would some day be used by them as a strategical base. They had told Italy that they would be willing to discuss any hardships arising out of her obligations under the treaty, and an economic delegation would come to London next month. They were anxious to re-establish trade with all the Mediterranean countries, and invited them to these economic talks. The Danube problem was difficult, and the main aim was to keep the river open equally to all countries. A conference of the 4 Great Powers and all the riparian States would be held within 6 months of the ratification of the treaties, to deal with questions of administration on the Danube and to draw up a new Convention. With regard to the settlement of the South Tyrol, he hoped that it would lead to the conversion of the watersheds of the Alps into a new source of international power, serving Austria, France, Italy, and Yugoslavia.

Progress had been made by the Deputies on the Austrian treaty, and the main aim was a free and independent Austria. An agreement on Germany presented enormous difficulties. They could not allow Germany to become a depressed area of Europe, and yet had to provide

for European security. It was absolutely essential that the 4 Great Powers should reach agreement on this problem. The whole question must be approached on the basis of a federal Germany, and the Government considered that "the best way to get a democratic Germany is by a decentralized Germany". The Occupation was costing a great deal, and they had been unable to get the fulfilment of the decision in the Potsdam agreement that Germany be treated as an economic unit. This complicated the question of reparations, and they could not afford to lay out further capital without any prospect of repayment. They would have been forced to make the British zone self-supporting had not the United States proposed the fusion with theirs. Under this arrangement, they might expect to begin recovering some of their capital outlay in 1949, but their aim was still the economic unity of all 4 zones.

The question of frontiers demanded urgent consideration, and he stressed that suitable adjustments would have to be made for any transfer of assets among the Allies. Strong representations had been made by other countries, including the Dominions, that they be adequately consulted in the drafting of the treaty. It had always been assumed that these countries would have opportunities of making their contribution to the settlement.

M. Stalin had recently suggested that the Anglo-Soviet Treaty of Alliance, made before the United Nations existed, should be revised, and had listed the points he considered out of date. Britain's proposals would be put to the Soviet Government. The Dominions were being kept informed.

Following the visit of M. Blum to London negotiations were begun for an Anglo-French Treaty of Alliance. The work of the Anglo-French Economic Committee continued, and they had had useful talks with French officials on matter's concerning Germany. They had recently signed agreements with France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Norway to reduce travel restrictions. The Government were anxious to bring about the conclusion of the Four-Power Pact between the United States, the Soviet Union, France, and Britain, for the purpose of preventing another war in Europe.

He regretted that the Egyptian Government had broken off negotiations on the revision of the Treaty. The whole issue turned on the Sudan, and the Government were willing to go on exchanging views with Egypt to solve this problem. If, however, the Egyptian Government decided to put the case before the United Nations, they had a complete answer.

Speaking of the varied work of the United Nations, Mr. Bevin said that the question of disarmament was a fundamental one, and the basis of any satisfactory scheme must be the establishment of a collective security which would inspire complete confidence. The present weapons of war were so terrible that everyone must feel a full sense of responsibility. He thought there was a genuine desire in this generation for peace, and he would not lose his faith in the good intentions of others whatever they might say in their press or over their radio.

The agreement between Indonesia and the Dutch had not been

signed, though it was initialled last October. Indonesia could make a valuable contribution to the present food and raw material situation both in the East and West, and he earnestly hoped a settlement would soon be completed.

The economic and financial situation in China was very serious, largely owing to the civil war. He hoped some agreement would soon be reached, for all wars might easily prove a contributing factor to the danger of a general war.

He ended by stressing the terrible difficulties facing the Moscow Conference at this time of world-wide economic disturbance. Full production at home was the greatest contribution to peace that the people of Britain could make, for it was on the peoples of the world that the responsibility of making a good peace ultimately rested.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY OF ALLIANCE

ON March 4 a Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance between Britain and France was signed at Dunkirk. The preamble stated that the two countries, being "Resolved to co-operate closely with one another as well as with the other United Nations in preserving peace and resisting aggression in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in particular with articles 49, 51, 53, and 107 thereof,

"Determined to collaborate in measures of mutual assistance in the event of any renewal of German aggression, while considering most desirable the conclusion of a treaty between all the Powers having responsibility for action in relation to Germany with the object of preventing Germany from becoming again a menace to peace.

"Having regard to the treaties of alliance and mutual assistance which they have respectively concluded with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,

"Intending to strengthen the economic relations between the two countries to their mutual advantage and in the interests of general prosperity," had decided to conclude a treaty with these objects. The text was as follows:

ARTICLE I

Without prejudice to any arrangements that may be made under any treaty concluded between all the Powers having responsibility for action in relation to Germany under article 107 of the Charter of the United Nations, for the purpose of preventing any infringements by Germany of her obligations with regard to disarmament and demilitarization, and generally of ensuring that Germany shall not again become a menace to peace, the high contracting parties will, in the event of any threat to the security of either of them arising from the adoption by Germany of a policy of aggression, or from action by Germany designed to facilitate such a policy, take, after consulting with each other and where appropriate with the other Powers having responsibility for action in relation to Germany, such agreed action (which so long as the said article 107 remains operative shall be action under that article) as is best calculated to put an end to this threat.

ARTICLE II

Should either of the high contracting parties become again involved in hostilities with Germany, either in consequence of an armed attack, within the meaning of article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, by Germany against that party, or as a result of agreed action taken against Germany under Article I of this treaty, or as a result of enforcement action taken against Germany by the United Nations Security Council, the other high contracting party will at once give the high contracting party so involved in hostilities all the military and other support and assistance in his power.

ARTICLE III

In the event of either high contracting party being prejudiced by the failure of Germany to fulfil any obligation of an economic character imposed on her as a result of the instrument of surrender or arising out of any subsequent settlement, the high contracting parties will consult with each other, and where appropriate with the other Powers having responsibility for action in relation to Germany, with a view to taking agreed action to deal with the situation.

ARTICLE IV

Bearing in mind the interests of the other members of the United Nations, the high contracting parties will, by constant consultations on matters affecting their economic relations with each other, take all possible steps to promote the prosperity and economic security of both countries and thus enable each of them to contribute more effectively to the economic and social objectives of the United Nations.

ARTICLE V

(1) Nothing in the present treaty should be interpreted as derogating in any way from the obligations devolving upon the high contracting parties from the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations or from any special agreements concluded in virtue of article 43 of the Charter.

(2) Neither of the high contracting parties will conclude any alliance or take part in any coalition directed against the other high contracting party, nor will they enter into any obligation inconsistent with the provisions of the present treaty.

ARTICLE VI

(1) The present treaty is subject to ratification, and the instruments of ratification will be exchanged in London as soon as possible.

(2) It will come into force immediately on the exchange of the instruments of ratification and will remain in force for a period of fifty years.

(3) Unless either of the high contracting parties gives to the other notice in writing to terminate it at least one year before the expiration of this period it will remain in force without any specified time-limit, subject to the right of either of the high contracting parties to terminate it by giving to the other in writing a year's notice of his intention to do so.

A statement was issued by the two Governments, reading:
The Anglo-French Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance defines

the arrangements worked out between the two Powers for establishing on a firm basis and within the framework of collective security as laid down by the Charter of the United Nations the reciprocal and special guarantees which they contemplate to prevent the recurrence of a German menace.

On the occasion of the signing of this treaty the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain and France express the hope that these guarantees will soon be completed by the conclusion of a four-Power treaty laying down conditions for the disarmament and demilitarization of Germany and the methods of putting them into effect.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1947

March 17 World Conference on passports and frontier formalities, Geneva.

,, 17 I.L.O. Committee on Social Policy in Dependent Territories, London.

,, 18 Conference of the International Wheat Council, London.

,, 23 Inter-Asian Relations Conference, New Delhi.

,, 25 Meeting of Security Council, Lake Success.

,, 26 First Meeting of U.N. Trusteeship Council, New York.

,, 30 Elections for the Parliaments of German States in the British zone of Germany.

April 7 Plenary Session of the International Parliamentary Union, Cairo.

,, 7 Inter-American Conference on Social Security, Rio de Janeiro.

,, 8 Preparatory Commission of the International Conference on Trade and Employment, Geneva.

,, 9 Elections for the Constituent Assembly, Burma.

,, 15 International Telecommunications Conference, Washington.

,, 23 I.L.O. Industrial Committee on Coal Mining, Geneva.

,, 25 General Election in Japan.

May 6 Universal Postage Congress, Paris.